



State of California
The Natural Resources Agency
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

COPY

PROJECT TITLE Watdog Project

PROJECT LOCATION Watdog Project Area is located in Plumas County, south of Highway 27, approximately 2 miles west, southwest of Little Grass Valley Reservoir; within portions of Mount Diablo Meridian, California:

COUNTY Plumas

- T 22N R 8E sec 34
- T 21N R 8E sec 3

LEAD AGENCY Unites States Forest Service (USFS)

CONTACT David Jaramillo, RPF 2839 david@thewatershedcenter.com

ADDRESS P.O Box 356, Hayfork, CA. 96041 **PHONE** 530-628-4206

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

This Notice of Exemption is for an approximately 50-acre broadcast burn within the existing Watdog Project area. The following is a brief overview of the project;

The Feather River Ranger District of the Plumas National Forest proposes to meet objectives to improve overall forest health conditions and vegetative diversity and reduce the threat of large-scale, high-intensity wildfires by reducing hazardous fuels within the Watdog Project. The Watdog Project Area encompasses about 6,000 acres and lies between Feather Falls to the west, Little Grass Valley Reservoir to the east, Table Mountain to the north, and Frey Creek to the south in northern California

Treatments would include reduction of surface, ladder, and canopy fuels by re-entering 82 acres to maintain the effectiveness of Watdog Defensible Fuel Profile Zone (DFPZ). This project will treat the re-sprouting and regenerating vegetation through underburning units 112-114 of the DFPZ.

The dominant vegetation type on the project area is Sierra Nevada mixed conifer. Other vegetation types include ponderosa pine, hardwood, chaparral (found on slopes burned by wildfire), and true firs at higher elevations. It includes variable, but extensive, large same-aged stands resulting from wildfire and timber harvest/plantation establishment. Meadows and corridors of riparian vegetation exist along numerous perennial and intermittent streams. Wildlife habitat exists that supports most species common in the Sierra Nevada. The area consists of abundant surface and ladder fuels, shade-tolerant fire-prone species, and interlocking crowns. The area is extensively roaded with main roads as well as numerous non-system roads. Historically the Project Area experienced frequent, low intensity wild fires. However, as a result of land management activities and fire suppression, fuels have accumulated. Consequently, the Project Area is likely to experience high intensity stand replacing wildfires, which have the potential to negatively impact key ecosystem components.**

**** This is from federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Environmental Assessment documentation for the Watdog Project thewatershedcenter.com/watdog-project**

EXEMPTION STATUS

- ☒ Categorical Exemption Type/Section: Class 4 § 15304
Minor Alterations to Land
- ☐ Statutory Exemption (state code section):
- ☐ Ministerial (§21080(b)(1); 15268)



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- ☐ Declared Emergency (§21080(b)(3); 15269(a))
☐ Emergency Project (§21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c))

REASONS PROJECT IS EXEMPT


It has been determined that no exceptions apply which would preclude the use of a Notice of Exemption for this project. This project is consistent with the requirements stated in Section 15304; Minor Alterations to land, and will have no significant environmental impacts to aesthetics, agriculture and forestland/timberland, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use planning, mineral resources, noise, population and housing, public services, recreation, transportation/traffic, or to utilities and service systems.

DATE RECEIVED FOR FILING

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

OCT 15 2018

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

for  10/4/18
Helge Eng, Deputy Director Date
California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection